

From 14 Other
Page Page Page

STATINTL

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.
BEE

EVENING 168,450
SUNDAY 170,030

MAY 23 1963

Look Under The Cloak

From the Milwaukee Journal

Allen Dulles, former head of the central intelligence agency, has renewed in a magazine article his opposition to any additional congressional control over the agency. His argument comes when there is new questioning of the effectiveness of all of our intelligence agencies.

As the former superspy, Dulles undoubtedly is reluctant to have anyone looking too closely over the shoulders of his successors. Spies work best in the dark. But there is a stronger argument that calls for some form of continuing surveillance of our surveillants. This is, after all, a democratic government and should not be administered like a castle of Borgias.

A Hoover commission task force recommended that there be some form of continuous check on the CIA and other intelligence agencies. It warned that "there is always a danger that... freedom from restraints could inspire laxity and abuses which might prove costly to the American people." Systematic review of intelligence activity is "a matter of future insurance," the task force said.

Some congressmen, including Representative Zablocki (D) of Wisconsin, have advocated a joint congressional committee to check intelligence services just as such a committee surveys activities of the atomic energy commission. In the latter case there has been little conflict and no breach of national security. Instead the public has been given some assurance that the atomic energy program, conducted in large part in secret, is properly conducted.

The senate refused in 1956 to set up any checks on the CIA. The argument was that it was too secret and that there was a form of check by committees which had to approve its budget. But its budget is largely secret. A more widespread check is needed.

The CIA came under some criticism in connection with the Cuban invasion and in other periods of recent crisis. For its own good—and that of the country—it ought to welcome having surveillance of its overall activities.